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Historical Sketch
of
The First Presbyterian Church
Red Springs, North Carolina
1889 - 1979

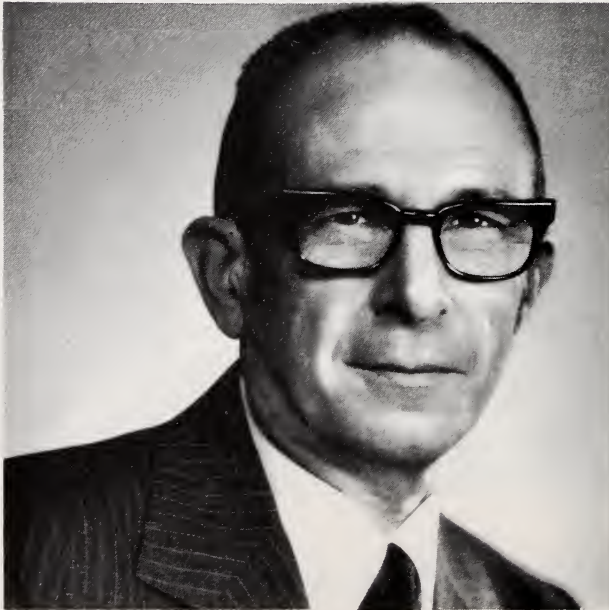


NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY

June 3, 1979



Reverend Joseph C. McCutchen
Pastor



Dr. Robert G. Hall
Guest Minister

CHURCH OFFICERS

Pastor

Rev. Joseph Chalmers McCutchen

Elders

Joseph C. McCutchen, Moderator
L.E. Baldwin
Ben Campen
J.B. McCloskey
R.A. McConnaughey, Jr.
Worth Currie, Jr.
Frank McDonald
Duncan McGoogan

A.K. Lovin
John K. McGirt, Clerk
R.D. McMillan, Sr.
W. Edwin McNeill
Mrs. Elbert McPhaul
Earle Watson

Deacons

John Buie
Billy Currie
Lewis McFayden
Mrs. C. T. Johnson, Jr.
W.H. Powell
Stewart Tolar
Allen Warren
Robert Currie
G.R. Graham
Gates Harris
Donald Humphrey
George Paris

W.H. Templeton
Donald Watson
C.E. Zedaker
John McArthur, III
Reid B. Grantham
Carl McIlwain, Jr.
C.T. Johnson, Jr.
Graham, King
James M. Owen, Jr.
John Robertson
J.E. Watson

PASTORS OF THE CHURCH

John M. Clark	1889-1893
Samuel M. Rankin	1894-1897
D.W. Fox S.S.	1897-1899
Charles F. Rankin	1899-1905
John V. McCall S.S.	1905
Charles G. Vardell S.S.	1905-1906
Robert W. Joplin	1906-1911
Charles G. Vardell S.S.	1911-1912
John J. Hill	1912-1921
James B. Black	1921-1945
H. Tucker Graham Supply Pastor	1945
Thomas A. Fry, Jr.	1946-1951
Samuel D. Maloney	1952-1954
Robert G. Hall	1955-1974
Thomas A. Guiton Supply Pastor	1974-1975
Joseph C. McCutchen.	1975-

PAST ELDERS IN THE RED SPRINGS CHURCH

John A. McKay
 John McLean
 Neill R. Brown
 Peter McQueen
 Major Jesse R. McLean
 A.D. McLeod
 R.F. Currie
 W.J. McLeod
 D.R. McIver
 Capt. J.F. Johnston
 David G. Robeson, Sr.
 Dr. B.F. McMillan
 James A. McNeill
 Lucius McRae
 W.M. Roberts
 G.R. Dupry
 J.A. McRae
 Walter A. Bullock
 Earnest Graham
 John H. McKay
 Neill McKinnon
 Hiram Grantham, Sr.
 G.O. McBroom

M.C. McQueen
 W.D. Herring
 F.B. Thrower
 Robert Chapman, Sr.
 W.B. Townsend
 D.E. Smith
 A.T. McCallum
 J.W. Hodgin
 J.C. Snoddy
 L.W. Currie
 G.T. Bullock
 Dr. H.H. Hodgin
 J.H. Townsend
 John C. Graham
 Z.V. McMillan
 Dr. C.T. Johnson, Sr.
 Neill P. Clinton
 James W. Carruth
 R.D. McMillan, Jr.
 James McKay
 Cecil Parsons
 Charles G. Vardell, Jr.
 W.R. Bullock
 A.S. McKeithan

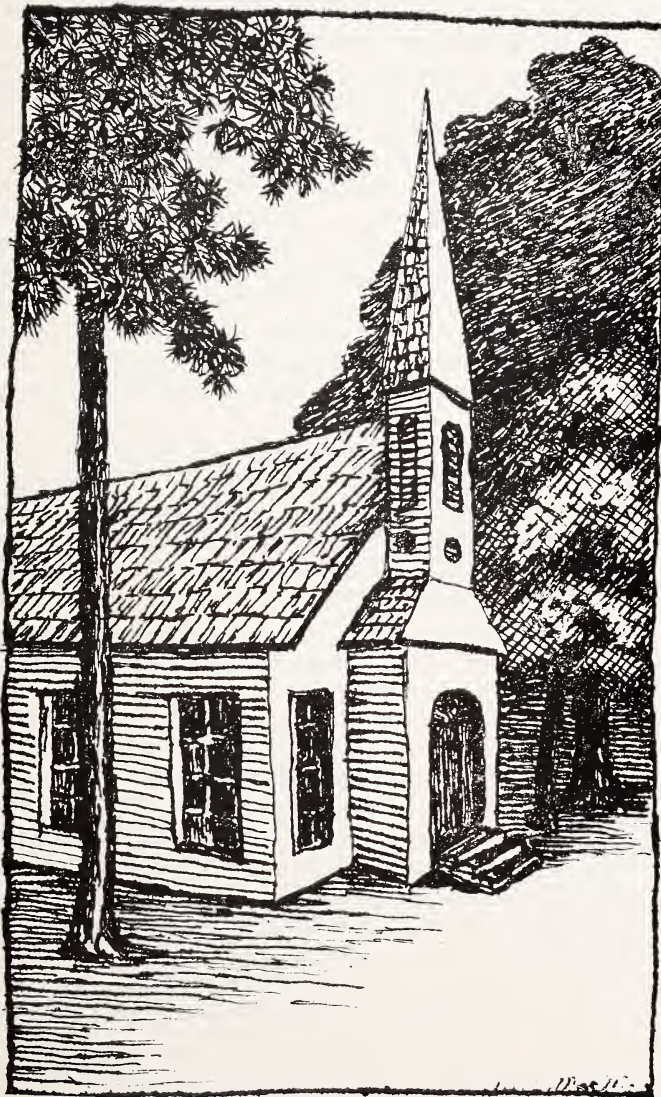
PAST DEACONS OF THE RED SPRINGS CHURCH

Peter McQueen
 W.M. Roberts
 John A. Brown
 Daniel W. Biggs
 A.T. McCallum
 Dr. J.L. McMillan
 Lucius McRae
 J.M. Buie, Life Member
 Edwin C. McNeill
 Martin McKinnon
 W.E. Garrett
 Hector Currie
 W.J. Johnson
 Hiram Grantham, Sr.
 J.A. Byrne, Sr.
 L.B. McKellar
 H.E. McLeod
 W.B. Townsend
 H.G. McIntosh
 W.P. Kay
 Mrs. R.A. McConnaughey, Jr.

J.Q. Adams
 E.F. Neighbors
 G.T. Ashford, Sr.
 E.H. Alexander
 G.T. Ashford, Jr.
 W. Edwin McNeill, Sr.
 D.M. Brown
 W.R. Bullock
 Robert Cathey
 R.A. McConnaughey, Jr.
 W.E. McConnaughey, Jr.
 Gilbert Conoly
 Worth Currie, Jr.
 Frank McDonald
 Loren Epton
 James A. Graham
 Hiram Grantham, Jr.
 Henry Hodgin, Jr.
 W.D. McKay, Jr.
 Mrs. Elbert McPhaul

A.K. Lovin
 Robert Marr
 D.M. McMillan
 J.P. McMillan, Jr.
 R.D. McMillan, Sr.
 Wilton Brock
 John L. McNeill
 Andrew Shepherd
 A.F. Tolar
 Earle A. Watson
 Henry Webster, Jr.
 Milton Brown
 James M. Owen, Sr.
 Clarence A. Bailey
 Charles Hill
 Galen Harris
 Ralph McQueen
 L.B. Blackmon
 N.H. Watson
 Herbert Brown
 Charles T. McIntyre

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Sketch of First Church Building
1889
Drawn by Miss Mary E. McMillan

file

**Historical Sketch
of
The First Presbyterian Church
of
Red Springs, North Carolina**

The first known religious history of this section began in 1757 when services were held at a place about four miles south of McPhaul's Mill, which was later organized as Raft Swamp Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. James Campbell, a Scotsman, had come over to join the Synod of Philadelphia about 1730, and had been persuaded by the Rev. Hugh McAden to come down to North Carolina. Mr. McAden had visited this area as a missionary about 1754, and had seen the great need for religious instruction among the Highland Scots.

The Rev. Mr. Campbell began his ministry in the now famous old churches of Barbecue, Bluff, and Longstreet. These three churches, with Brown Marsh and Black River, formed a nucleus from which all churches in Fayetteville and Wilmington Presbyteries have sprung.

Mr. Campbell also preached on occasion at Raft Swamp from a stand in the grove before the church building was erected, and a Sabbath School was organized.

This old church wielded a powerful influence, and one result of its ministry was the organizing of Antioch Church in 1833, which later proved to be a great influence on the Red Springs Church.

The first six ordained ministers in Fayetteville Presbytery were sons of Raft Swamp, two of whom were sent to Mississippi by Synod as missionaries to the Natchez country about 1804.

It is interesting to note that during the Revolutionary War, the Rev. Mr. Campbell was an outspoken advocate for freedom of the colonies, which incensed the Scottish people who were still loyal to the king, and threats were made against him. He left this section and went to Guilford County, but later returned and is buried across the Cape Fear River from Bluff Church.

After the Revolution, occasional ministers passed through what is now the Philadelphus community going to settlements in the upper part of the state.

Hugh Brown, "a pious and influential citizen", lived near the road and, being a hospitable man, his house became a favorite stopping place for these ministers who often tarried long enough to hold worship services in his home for the neighbors. This eventually led to the forming of Philadelphus Church sometime before 1794.

Hugh's son Neill furnished the land, and erected a church building on Richland Swamp, and a school was established. The people who were involved had formerly been members of Raft Swamp Church.

Two of Hugh Brown's sons, Daniel and Duncan, became ministers, Daniel being called to the new church as its first pastor in 1802, where he preached in both English and Gaelic. He remained at Philadelphus until 1809.

One of Daniel Brown's daughters, Susanna, married the Rev. Hector McLean, a future pastor of this Church.

The Rev. John McIntyre was the next pastor, remaining until 1831. He lived to be 103, preaching his last sermon at the age of 100.

His daughter married Archibald Hay Scott, and this couple were the founders of Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia.

Hugh Brown's grandson, Joseph Brown became the third pastor, and during his pastorate in 1833, the Philadelphus Church began sharing its members with the newly organized church at Antioch.

A new sanctuary for the Philadelphus Church was dedicated in 1861 at its present location, and some members who were not pleased with this change broke away and organized Mt. Tabor Church.

In 1874 the Philadelphus Church dismissed about 40 black communicants to the newly formed Panthersford Presbyterian Church.

Antioch Church was organized by the Rev. Archibald Buie, and a building was started. In the meantime the congregation worshipped in a grove, with transient preachers conducting the services.

On May 19, 1833, the Rev. Hector McLean, a native of Robeson County, fresh from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, preached his first sermon at Antioch, and continued there for 56 years until his death on July 3, 1889. During part of this time he also preached at Philadelphus.

"Father McLean", as he was affectionately called, was greatly beloved and revered in this section. One month before his death, a new church was born in Red Springs from the influence of his ministry.

In about 1880 Philadelphus had started a Sabbath School in this village "so the local youth could receive their Christian education", and from this small start came the Red Springs Church with most of its original members coming from the Mother Church, Philadelphus.

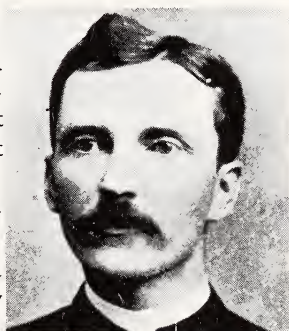
When age and poor health had begun to affect Father McLean, a summer assistant, The Rev. J.M. Clark, was secured at Philadelphus and Antioch. He also preached once a month, on Sunday afternoons at Red Springs. The Baptist Church, the town's first religious building was lent to the Presbyterians for these services.

The first known settler to this immediate community was Hector McNeill, called "Sailor Hector", who was, in 1775, granted by King George III a parcel of land, on part of which our town now stands.

In the fall of 1888, the Presbyterians of Red Springs began to build a house of worship for themselves as the first step in having an organized church.

The lot on which the church was built was located on the corner of Vance Street and Second Avenue, near the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. E.H. Alexander. The lot was donated by the owners of the Red Springs Hotel who had procured their land from Squire Hector McNeill, grandson of Sailor Hector. The men who signed the deed were, A. and W. McQueen, W.O. Robeson, and Dr. J. Luther McMillan.

The building was ready by June 1889, and on June 5 and 6, Fayetteville Presbytery met in an adjourned session in this place of worship for the purpose of organizing The Red Springs Presbyterian Church. The Rev. A.W.



REV. J. M. CLARK, D. D.
SUPPLY

Shaw was moderator. The Baptists again helped the Presbyterians by lending their pews for this meeting.

This new church was organized with seventeen Charter Members: Peter McQueen and wife, Mrs. Margaret B. McQueen, and John McLean from Big Rockfish Presbyterian Church. W.H. Carver, H.G. Carver, and Mrs. Ida Carver Guerrant from Fayetteville First Church. The following members were from Philadelphus: Mrs. Mary McPherson, Miss Sarah Black, Malcolm Archibald Buie and wife, Mrs. Annie Robert Buie, John McC. Buie and wife, Mary Ann Buie, Mrs. Rebecca B. Buie, John A. McKay, and Paisley McMillan. William M. Roberts from Soddy, Tennessee and Miss Janie R. McMillan were received on profession of faith.

John A. McKay and John McLean were elected Elders, and Mr. McLean was chosen Clerk of the Session. Peter McQueen and W.M. Roberts were elected as Deacons.

On the same Sunday at the evening service Louina Watson and Ann Ada Watson joined the church. Other new members coming in very soon were: Mollie McPherson, Mary Eliza McQueen, Cornelia S. McMillan, Robert Fields, Squire Hector McNeill, and Nellie J. Shooter.

A beautiful silver Communion Service and Baptismal Font were presented to the church by Squire McNeill, and Mr. and Mrs. John McC. Buie gave a bell which called people to worship until the new church was built.

Red Springs was grouped by Presbytery with Philadelphus and Antioch, and the Rev. J.M. Clark was called as pastor for part time service to the Red Springs Church.

On July 28, 1889 a Sunday School was organized with the pastor as Superintendent and Mr. John McLean as his assistant. Mr. McLean was later made Superintendent of the school, and served in that capacity until his death in August 1913. He was a most devoted Christian worker who never missed a Sunday nor was he late for the services.

The church grew larger in membership, some members coming as transfers from Sardis, Smyrna, Mt. Horeb, Galatia, Mt. Tabor, Lumber Bridge and Fayetteville.

Covering the period from June 6, 1889 to March 30, 1890, a statistical report read as follows: "Elders 4, Deacons 3, Examinations 19, Admitted from other churches 35. Total communicants 54. Adult baptisms 12, Infants 8, Scholars in Sabbath School and Bible Classes 65. Teachers 4, Sexton (a young boy of the congregation) hired at \$1 a month, or 25¢ a week. Pastor's salary actually paid \$150.42. Ladies Aid Society \$77.07. Spiritual condition of the congregation looked into and pronounced very good, as all our members attend very regularly the services of the sanctuary. Financial condition of the church was thought to be very good. Family worship is regularly observed by some of our members, and encouraging advance is being made of this duty generally, but there is room for greater fidelity in this respect. Catechism and Bible instruction is regular in The Sabbath School, and to some extent observed in families, though not as much as it might be".

In 1890 a Ladies' Missionary Society was organized with Mrs. Peter McQueen as president. This later grew into a flourishing Woman's Auxiliary, and it is now an increasingly active Women of the Church organization.

The Rev. J.M. Clark resigned from his work with Philadelphus, Antioch and Red Springs in 1893, and the Rev. Samuel M. Rankin was called to these churches, and began his work that same year.

In 1894 the first Girl's Society was formed under the leadership of the pastor's wife, Mrs. S.M. Rankin. This grew in scope, later to include a Christian Endeavor organization, and it has now developed into the active youth groups in our church today.

The popular evangelist, the Rev. William Black held a successful meeting in our church resulting in a substantial increase in membership.

It was during Mr. Sam Rankin's pastorate here, and largely due to his efforts, that Fayetteville Presbytery established Red Springs Seminary in Red Springs in 1896. This school for women was later called Southern Presbyterian College and Conservatory of Music, and still later it became the much beloved Flora Macdonald College.

Mr. Rankin not only served as financial agent for the new school, but he was also directed by the trustees to supervise the work on the first building. During this busy time Mr. J.W. Gray, a ministerial student, was his summer assistant.

Before he resigned in 1897 to accept a new pastorate in Kentucky, Mr. Rankin had the satisfaction of seeing the college off to a sound start under the capable guidance of the first president, Dr. Charles Graves Vardell. And Mr. Rankin's interest continued in the school, which he served as a trustee until his death in 1939.

For the next two years the church was without a regular pastor, and was served by the Rev. D. W. Fox as Stated Supply. Mr. Fox was a retired northern minister living at Pine Bluff at that time.

In March 1899, The Rev Charles F. Rankin accepted a call to the Red Springs and Antioch churches, since Philadelphus had secured a full time minister. Mr. Rankin served both churches until 1901 when he accepted the call to Red Springs for a full time ministry.

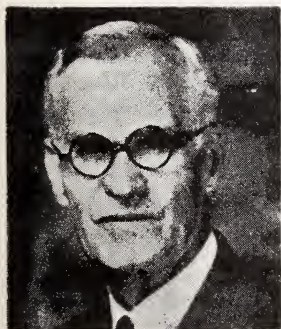
Under his leadership here, a manse was purchased, and plans were made and a site secured for a new church building, large enough to seat the growing congregation and the college students and faculty. Mr. Rankin, for a time served as Assistant Professor of Bible at the college.

After his resignation in 1905, the church was without a pastor for a year, but the pulpit was filled by Dr. C.G. Vardell who willingly served the church whenever he was needed.

The Rev. Robert W. Joplin succeeded Mr. Rankin in February 1906, and the new church building was completed on the present site during his pastorate.



REV. S. M. RANKIN



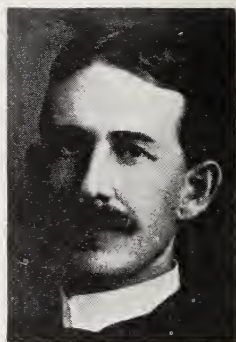
DR. CHARLES GRAVES VARDELL

The corner stone of the church was laid on November 8, 1906. The building was finished in the spring of 1908, with the pipe organ, now in use, having been installed in January of that year.

While the church was being built, the congregation accepted Dr. Vardell's invitation to use the college auditorium for Sunday morning services, and weddings. Evening worship and weekly prayer meetings were held in the Town Hall.

On June 28, 1908 the church was dedicated. Dr. G. B. Strickler of Atlanta, father-in-law of the Rev. C. F. Rankin preached the sermon of dedication.

Among the gifts presented to the new church were four collection plates by Mrs. A. T. McCallum, two additional silver plates and goblets by Dr. D.M. McDonald, and a new church bell by Mr. W. J. Johnson.



REV. C. F. RANKIN



Laying of Cornerstone — 1906

Since that time this church has been blessed with many beautiful and useful gifts and memorials for which the congregation is truly grateful.

Mr. Joplin gave five full years of leadership to the church before resigning in October 1911.

Dr. John Joseph Hill followed Mr. Joplin and was with us for the next nine fruitful years. He and Mrs. Hill presented the church with an individual Communion Service which is still being used.

A year's gap between pastors was filled by Dr. Vardell until the arrival of Dr. James B. Black in April 1921.

Dr. Black was a highly cultured and lovable man of God, and endeared himself to his congregation during his twenty-four years of ministry to this church. He and Mrs. Black were always ready to give their best to the church and community.

After his retirement in June 1945, they lived in Bon Air, Virginia, a suburb of Richmond.

It was during Dr. Black's pastorate that the



REV. R. W. JOPLIN

church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary June 11, 1939. The former pastor, the Rev. R.W. Joplin preached the Sermon.

Many former members and friends came back for this celebration including members from the two Mother Churches, Philadelphus and Antioch. Three Charter Members, Mrs. Annie Roberts Buie, W.M. Roberts and Mrs. Rebecca B. Buie were the honored members of the congregation. The membership of the church at that time was 315.

In January 1946, the Rev. Thomas A. Fry came to Red Springs directly from his first pastorate in Blackstone, Virginia.

Full of vim and energy this young man was

willing to undertake new ventures, and worked to bring new life into the church. His work with the young people, including the college students at Flora Macdonald, was outstanding.

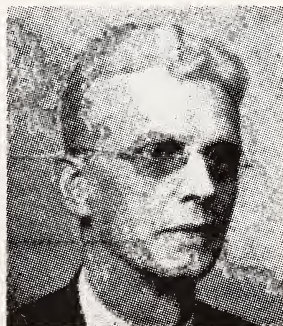
A long needed Educational Building was erected during his stay, and a successful sixtieth year celebration in June 1949 marked another important event in church history.

In 1948 a set of chimes was installed as a gift from Malcom McLean and William McLean honoring their parents Mr. and Mrs. Malcom McLean of Maxton and Mr. and Mrs. James Dickson McLean of Red Springs.

Mr. Fry resigned in 1951 to accept a call to

Bristol, Virginia. He was followed by the Rev. Samuel D. Maloney in the spring of 1952.

Dr. Marshall Woodson and Dr. Price H. Gwynn of Flora Macdonald College filled the pulpit in the absence of a regular pastor.



REV. J. B. BLACK, D. D.

The rotation plan for Deacons was adopted during this year, and a church library was started. A new manse was in the planning stage.

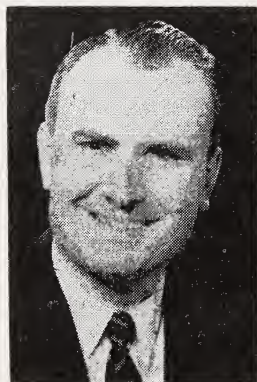
Mr. Maloney's resignation in 1954 was accepted with regret when he left to accept a position in the Bible Department of Davidson College.

Dr. Robert G. Hall preached his first sermon in this church on April 3, 1955. He was the last occupant of the old manse which was demolished the next year. It was replaced by the present brick structure to which Dr. Hall brought his bride, Helen Brown Hall, in October, 1956.

Dr. Hall, a graduate of Presbyterian College and of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, came to Red Springs from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland where he had received his Ph. D. degree. The years of Dr. Hall's ministry were active ones.



REV. T. A. FRY



REV. SAM D. MALONEY

In 1959 the church started a program for renovating the sanctuary and the educational building, which included air conditioning, painting and other needed improvements.

Perhaps the most disheartening thing that ever happened to this church and community occurred in 1961 when the Synod of North Carolina merged Flora Macdonald College and Presbyterian Junior College to form St. Andrews College in Laurinburg, leaving a painful vacancy in Red Springs.

In September 1964, a new school, Vardell Hall was started on the old campus which gave this church a renewed sense of responsibility for the students and faculty. Unfortunately, this school was closed in the summer of 1973.

Robeson Country Day School moved into the college building in September of that year.

A most impressive celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Red Springs Church was held June 14, 1964, preceded by a preparatory thanksgiving service in June 12, and followed by a service of rededication on June 21.

On October 14 and 15, 1964, this church entertained the Women of the Church of Fayetteville Presbytery, and on October 3, 1967, Fayetteville Presbytery met in this church.

The Women of the Church entertained District 3 of the Presbytery October 22, 1968.

Homecoming June 11, 1972, gave the congregation another opportunity to welcome many visitors. Dr. T.A. Fry, a former pastor preached the sermon at the morning service.

In 1974, the churches of Red Springs organized the Christian Service Center which provides food, clothing and other necessities for those who need help.

When the McManus house, next door to the church, was for sale, the

church bought it, and it has been used as a recreational center for the young people.

It was with regret that Dr. Hall's resignation was accepted so that he, Mrs. Hall and their three sons could move to Birmingham, Alabama, where Dr. Hall had accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church there.

He was a scholar, a consistently good preacher, and a good pastor, and the love of the congregation went with the Halls when they left Red Springs.

The Rev. Thomas A. Guiton of Parkton ably supplied the pulpit from August 4, 1974, until the new pastor arrived the next spring. The news of Mr. Guiton's death in 1976 brought a sense of loss to this congregation.

The Rev. Joseph Chalmers McCutchen, with his wife Elizabeth Finlator McCutchen and their two sons came to Red Springs from Laurel Church in Hanover Presbytery. He preached his first sermon here April 6, 1975.

Mr. McCutchen, a graduate of Davidson College and of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia is a talented young man full of energy and enthusiasm, and he has made for himself a warm spot in the hearts of his congregation.

One of his first undertakings was the reorganization of the Church School in an effort to create more interest and better attendance.

Family meals on occasion at the church, and the use of Camp Monroe have encouraged a spirit of fellowship.

A monthly news letter, Red Springs Presbyterian Voice, was started in March 1976 and is mailed to each family of the church.

The Manse was renovated in the summer of 1975, and in 1976 and 1977 extensive repairs and improvements were made on the educational building and on the grounds.

An amplifying system was installed early in 1975, and on Christmas 1978, the McCutchens gave a separate microphone which has added greatly to the efficiency of this system.

Each June a successful Vacation Church School is sponsored jointly by the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. There has always been a good relationship between the local churches.

For the past several years this church has had Spring Preaching Services each March. Different preachers from this area have brought good sermons and spiritual enrichment to the congregation. In a sense, this three day series of sermons is a successor to the inter-denominational Religious Emphasis Week which was previously held each spring in Red Springs.

Our pastor has been busy not only with this church but with the work of the Presbytery. He represented Fayetteville Presbytery as a delegate to the General Assembly in 1978.

The church officers are active in carrying out their responsibilities. There have been three women elected to the Diaconate and one woman to the Session.

Mrs. Frances Williams Brock was honored by the church in September 1978 on the completion of twenty years of faithful service as DCE and Church Secretary.

The Red Springs Church has always maintained a high standard of church music. The choir and the organist-director, Henry Hodgins are continuing this tradition. The pipe organ was thoroughly renovated in March 1979 which adds to the quality of the music.

The Women of the Church are actively participating in the program of church work. On September 30, 1978, the women entertained District 3 of Fayetteville Presbytery. There are seven circles which meet monthly, and three general meetings are held during the year, in addition to the annual Christmas party, and other social gatherings.

The Young People have their own active organizations, and show promise of good future leadership. They are encouraged to share in all branches of the work of the church.

This church sponsors both the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts in the community.

Two missionary families are partially supported by the Red Springs Church. The Rev. and Mrs. Frank Musick of Brazil, and the Rev. and Mrs. Donnell McColl of Taiwan. Mrs. McColl as Virginia Montgomery was a former DCE of this church.

Three sons of the church have gone into the ministry: The Rev. John Edwin Purcell, D.D., the Rev. Angus Hodgkin and the Rev. Robert McGirt. And at the present time one of our young men, John Robertson, Jr. is preparing to be taken under the care of Presbytery as he looks forward to a career in the ministry.

A successful Every Member Canvas was conducted in November and a church budget of \$59,783 was adopted for this year.

We can be justly proud of the accomplishments of the past, but as we look back on our heritage of ninety years, which we celebrate on June 3, 1979, let us humbly rededicate ourselves and our future to God's service, while giving grateful thanks for His continued blessings throughout the years.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Malcolm Archibald Buie
Annie Roberts Buie
Rebecca Brown Buie
John McCallum Buie
Mary Ann Brown Buie
Sarah Margaret Black
W.H. Carver
H.G. Carver
Ida Carver Guerrant

John A. McKay
John McLean
Paisley McMillan
Mary McPherson
Peter McQueen
Margaret B. McQueen
William McRee Roberts
Janie R. McMillan Townsend

